6100 kg. way back in 1996. This was well before the detailed design was done and the actual subsystems were selected. Mechanisms are put in place so that specified payload and range are not affected by the time SARAS aircraft reaches the stage of production.

(d) The following steps are taken to meet the desired specifications:

(i) Reduction of the margin available in the basic structure (based on analysis and structural testing);

(ii) Optimization of the structure based on design modifications; and

(iii) Fitting with the higher power engine (1200 SHP) in the 2nd prototype to meet the safety standards associated with FAR 25 requirement under single engine failure conditions.

(e) The last survey was conducted by NAL in December 2001, based on primary and secondary surveys coupled with a macro-economic model. The results of this survey indicate that in the feeder aircraft role, there is an expected cumulative demand of about 50 aircraft by 2007-08. A separate survey was also carried out, as a part of this study, for the North Eastern region of the country, based on a development model. This has predicted a demand for 18 small aircraft in this region by the year 2005. In addition of the cargo, ambulance, aerial survey, executive aircraft roles and military requirements are taken into account, the demand is expected to be 150 aircrafts in the next ten years.

Recruitment of Indians in Iraqi security

*155. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians are being recruited into the Iraqi security unofficially;

(b) whether these Indians are being taken to Kuwait and sent to Iraq illegally where they are being treated like slaves;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiries in this regard;

(d) the steps being taken to stop this un-official slave trade; and

(e) the number of Indians recruited by these agencies, so far, and the number out of them that have died in Iraq?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Attention of the Government has been drawn to

media reports about irregular recruitment of ex-Servicemen from India for security related duties in Iraq.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Several steps have been taken to regulate emigration to Iraq which include, *inter alia*, imposing of a complete ban on emigration clearance to Iraq w.e.f. 15.04.2004 and temporary suspension of emigration clearance to ex-Servicemen for deployment as security guards or for other security related duties in Jordan, Kuwait and UAE.

(e) As per information collected so far, approximately 5042 Indians had entered Iraq, legally and illegally, out of which 11 reportedly died there.

Indo-Bangladesh joint operation to detect rebel camps

*156. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Bangladesh had turned down India's request for conducting joint operations to detect rebel camps and hunt down insurgents using that country as a base to carry on violence in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and

(c) Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Meeting of Foreign Minister with Sri Lankan Counter Part

*157. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he met recently his Sri Lankan counter part in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the points discussed; and

(c) the action taken on the suggestions made in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar had a meeting with the External Affairs Minister in New Delhi on 31st May, 2004. During the meeting, the Foreign Minister briefed the External Affairs Minister on the status of the peace